

Acute Flaccid Myelitis Provider Guidance

Acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) is characterized by rapid onset of flaccid weakness in one or more limbs and distinct abnormalities of the spinal cord gray matter on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). AFM is a subtype of acute flaccid paralysis, defined as acute onset of flaccid weakness absent features suggesting an upper motor neuron disorder. The causes of AFM remain largely unknown and no laboratory test is available for case confirmation.



Symptoms of AFM

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|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sudden arm or leg weakness | Difficulty moving eyes | Difficulty swallowing |
| Sudden loss of muscle tone/reflexes | Eyelid droop | Slurred speech |
| Facial droop or weakness | Difficulty sweating | Pain in arms/legs |

Reporting Suspected AFM Cases

Please contact your county health department (CHD) first to report an individual you suspect may have AFM: [FloridaHealth.gov/CHDEpiContact](https://www.floridahealth.gov/CHDEpiContact). If the CHD cannot be reached, contact the state health department at 850-245-4401.



What Happens Next?

After contacting the CHD, providers will be asked to provide the following:

Patient Health Information

- MRI images MRI report Patient summary form Medical Records



Laboratory specimens

- CSF Serum Stool NP/OP swab.

Additional information concerning specimen collection can be found in the *Job Aid for Clinicians*. Specimen submission to the public health laboratory should be coordinated with the CHD. To provide consistency in case classification, review of case information and assignment of final case classification for all suspected AFM cases will be done by experts in national AFM surveillance at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Patient summary form and Job aid for Clinicians can be found at: [FloridaHealth.gov/gsi](https://www.floridahealth.gov/gsi)

Long-Term Follow-Up Survey

The Florida Department of Health (Department) conducts long-term follow up on cases of AFM to increase understanding of AFM outcomes, improve surveillance, and contribute to the national picture for this syndrome. If your patient is classified as an AFM case, the Department will reach out to you at 60 days, 6 months, and 1 year after the patient's onset of limb weakness with a short survey. The survey consists of 9 clinical questions and a medical records request at the 60 day survey.



To learn more about AFM surveillance, visit www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis. For additional questions, please contact your CHD.

